

SECRET

FOOCH 927

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14 October 1946

XARZ-28595

TO: CHINFO, BEK  
Attn:

FROM:   Station

SUBJECT: Stefan BANDERA;  
Ukrainian Nationalist Movements

1. Reference HEID 1707 from   requesting any information on Ukrainians. Also, reference   1436, HEID 1802 and HEID 1896.

2. Attached is a copy of a report on Stefan BANDERA, Ukrainian Nationalist leader, prepared by Section V (I-6).

3. This report came to us on 7 October 1946 with the statement that it might be of interest to General Edwin Sibert; and a request from the British for any information which our organization for General Sibert, G-2, USFET, might be able to supply concerning BANDERA's present whereabouts.

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7) Oct 1946

STEFAN BANDERA

According to our information, BANDERA was originally a member of the Galician Ukrainian Terrorist Organization, Ukrainske Voenneis Organivatsia (U.V.O.). The organization was anti-Soviet but primarily directed against the Polish authorities. In 1927 the Headquarters of its leader, Colonel KONOVALETS, were in Berlin, where he was supported and subsidized by the Germans.

BANDERA was arrested by the Poles in 1939 for his part in the murder of the Polish Minister, PIERACKI. He is said to have been released with other Ukrainian terrorists when the Germans occupied Warsaw in 1939.

Colonel KONOVALETS, the leader of the U.V.O., had in the meantime been murdered and BANDERA appears to have assumed the leadership of O.U.N. (the National Ukrainian Union), a loosely knit organization designed to coordinate the activities of the principal Ukrainian nationalist organizations.

According to one report, BANDERA was sent, on his release, to the Soviet-deoccupied Polish Ukraine where he acted as a military espionage agent for the Germans and prepared the ground for a national rising to coincide with the forthcoming German attack on the U.S.S.R. In return for the organization of a rising the German Government repeated previous promises to recognise the independence of the Ukraine. However, after the capture of Leiburg, it became clear that the German Government had no intention of implementing their promise and BANDERA thereupon declared himself and his organisation as hostile to the German occupying forces. He himself was arrested but a number of his staff escaped.

After BANDERA's arrest the O.U.N., always torn by internal squabbles, disintegrated further. The two main organizations which emerged were BOROVETS' "TAKA'S BULB" movement and the U.P.A. (Ukrainian Insurgent Army). Again information, which depends upon a single report believed to be generally accurate, shows that BANDERA, always strongly anti-Soviet, accepted conditional release from the Germans on an agreement that he should organize Partizan Jagdverbands for use against the Russian partisans. It appears however that BANDERA actually used his units to fight the Polish partisans whilst at the same time collaborating with Russian partisan bands against the German administration in the Ukraine.

BANDERA's whereabouts during the later years of the war are unknown, but it appears that his bands were actively engaged against the Red Army during the period of Soviet reoccupation of the Ukraine in 1944. A regimental order of the KHABAROV Rifle Regiment of 14 January 1944 states that the regiment may come into contact with anti-Soviet elements, the bands of BANDERA, and "must be prepared in the near future for acts of terrorism". Another order of January 1944 addressed to the Senior Commissar of 935th Regiment from the Chief of the Divisional Counter-Espionage Section, "SHERSH", instructs him to examine carefully replacements to the regiment in certain districts as "it is not impossible that amongst the new replacements from those districts members of the CUL-UPA could infiltrate into our units".

According to the Polish newspaper, RECHPOSOLITA, No. 41, dated 14.2.46, Stefan BANDERA is one of "the Ukrainian fascists hiding under the mask of displaced persons" in one of the occupation zones. CS COPY

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